



**Pacific Northwest Region**  
**Malheur National Forest**  
**541-575-3000**  
[www.fs.usda.gov/malheur](http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur)

# FIRE UPDATE

September 11, 2014

## ***South Fork Complex and Bald Sisters Fire Continue***

**JOHN DAY, OR** – With continuing warm temperatures and low relative humidity levels, along with some light and gusty winds, fire activity and resulting smoke picked up over the past week, with single and group tree torching, on both the Bald Sisters Fire and South Fork Complex. This weather trend is expected to carry through into next week.

The South Fork Complex has continued to burn within its interior, reducing its own fuel in the old Thorn Fire burn area along the 2150 road. The fire remains at 66, 126 acres and 97% contained, as crews continue to confine the northeast perimeter and monitor for spot fires.

The Bald Sisters Fire size had increased to 1,547 acres by Monday evening, as determined by infrared imaging. The fire is spreading northwest along Wildcat Creek in dense, downed timber mixed with standing beetle-killed pine. Spot fires in the North Fork of Deardorff Creek have recently been extinguished by a local fire crew from the Prairie City Ranger District.

To protect key values that could become threatened by the Bald Sisters Fire, the local Incident Management Team has contingency plans in place. These plans include potential firing operations to eliminate fuel in the path of the fire, should flames approach any of four pre-determined points:

- Boundary with the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.
- Elkhorn Communication Site and power lines.
- Reynolds Creek
- North Reynolds Creek

Initial attack resources from the Bald Sisters Fire responded to a human caused start in the area Tuesday. Crews were able to contain the fire at a half acre. Forest Officials encourage everyone to be safe and careful when recreating, hunting, or using the National Forest. **Please make sure your campfires are DEAD OUT before leaving their site;** the fire should be cold to the touch with no potential to ignite. Although temperatures are getting cooler at night, we are still in fire season; vegetation is still very dry, and the weather is still hot during the day.

**Area closures remain in place on both fires.** At this time, perimeter roads around the Bald Sisters Fire closure area remain open, but are subject to change based on



for the greatest good

## NEWS RELEASE

(continued)

fire conditions. The current Area Closure Orders, along with maps, are available at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/malheur/alerts-notice>.

Cut, stacked wood from fireline construction last month is now available to the public along the Reynolds Creek Road and the 13 Road. A valid firewood permit is required. Please use headlights while driving and hazard lights if you are stopped on the roadway collecting this wood.

**FIRE RESTRICTIONS:** The north half, including Blue Mountain and Prairie City Ranger Districts, of the Malheur National Forest are in Phase A of the Public Use Restrictions (PURs), which addresses use of campfires, chainsaws (firewood cutting), internal combustion engines, smoking, generators, and off-road/off-trail vehicle travel. The south half, including Emigrant Creek Ranger District, remains in Phase B of the PURs, which prohibits or restricts use of campfires, chainsaws (firewood cutting), internal combustion engines, smoking, generators, and off-road/off-trail vehicle travel. The specific PURs information can be found at this location: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur/>.

**The public is responsible for knowing if restrictions are in place and can obtain information through many avenues:**

Call the Forest's offices or District offices at:

- Malheur National Forest/Blue Mountain Ranger District: 541-575-3000
- Prairie City Ranger District: 541-820-3800
- Emigrant Creek Ranger District: 541-573-4300

OR Visit the Forests website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur/>.

**Official information on these fires is now being updated weekly. For more information, go to Inciweb at:**

South Fork Complex: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4042/>

Bald Sisters Fire: <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4055/>

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